

ACHP NATIVE YOUTH PROGRAM

At the December 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference (TNC), President Obama announced the launch of *Generation Indigenous* (Gen-I), an initiative focused on improving the lives of Native youth by removing barriers to and creating opportunities for success. Of particular interest to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), White House Youth Ambassadors, speaking at the TNC, asked federal officials to help protect tribal sacred sites and identified this as one challenge facing tribal youth.

In response to the President's announcement and White House Youth Ambassador concerns, the ACHP's Office of Native American Affairs (ONAA) launched a Native Youth Initiative in 2015 that has two goals: 1) to introduce Native youth to historic preservation as a potential career choice, and 2) to provide Native youth an opportunity to voice concerns regarding the protection of sacred sites. Introducing historic preservation as a career choice responds to the Gen-I goal of removing barriers and creating opportunities to succeed, as well as to concerns expressed by Tribal Historic Preservation Officers about attracting tribal youth to work for or succeed them.

In November 2015, the ACHP adopted a strategic plan for its Native youth program to ensure the program's sustainability into the future. A copy of the plan can be found at * (include the URL).

The program includes a variety of specific initiatives such as in-person events in which Native youth can interact with preservation professionals and participate in preservation activities; providing information through the ACHP's Native youth Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Preservation-Indigenous-Native-Youth/618814861585123> and on this page; and, historic preservation distance learning.

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Facebook. The *Preservation Indigenous – Native Youth* Facebook page was established in March 2015 as a tool to share information. The page's following continues to grow and is connecting Native youth (and those who work with youth) and tribes across the country with information and opportunities related to historic and cultural preservation developments, and career and educational opportunities.

Roundtables and workshops. Several events in 2015 provided opportunities for Native youth to learn about careers in preservation and engage in conversations about sacred sites and the field of historic preservation in general. ACHP members and staff had the opportunity to learn from Native youth!

An inaugural roundtable discussion took place in May with tribal youth at the annual Cultural Resource Protection Summit hosted by the Suquamish Tribe in Washington. Tribal youth from the region had an opportunity to interact with summit attendees during a lunch roundtable led by Suquamish Chairman Leonard Forsman, also a member of the ACHP.

At the White House Tribal Youth Gathering in July in Washington, D.C., 90 Native youth participated in the *Cultural Preservation and Revitalization* breakout session. ACHP Member Dorothy Lippert served on the federal panel for this session and heard firsthand about youth concerns about cultural preservation as well as their suggestions for improvements.

At the July United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Conference in Washington, D.C., ONAA hosted two workshops on sacred sites and had a booth at the event's Career Expo. The workshops were co-hosted with federal partners in the interagency Sacred Sites Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (http://www.achp.gov/docs/SacredSites-MOU_121205.pdf).

And in late July a day-long gathering with tribal youth and adult historic preservation professionals (both tribal and non-tribal) from southern New England was co-hosted by the ACHP and the Mohegan Tribe. This event included a visit to an active field school site, roundtable lunch discussion, and visit to a Mohegan sacred site.

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